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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO
10/020,190	12/18/2001	Shigekazu Shikoda	111501	8011
25944 7	7590 05/09/2003			
OLIFF & BE	RRIDGE, PLC		EXAM	INER
P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			HEINRICH,	SAMUEL M
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1725	5
			DATE MAILED: 05/09/2003	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application No. Applicant(s)	•	•						
Examiner Samuel M Heinrich 1725	•		Application No. Applicant(s)					
Samuel M Heinrich 1725 Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address → Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (50) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of theiry (50) days will be considered femely. If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (50) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of theiry (50) days will be considered femely. If the period for reply specified above is the statutory period will applied 3 (s) (A) (MITTE) from the mating date of this communication. If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (50) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of theiry (50) days will be considered femely. If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (50) days, a reply to limited the statutory minimum of their (50) days will be considered femely. If the period for reply specified are statutory period will apply and will reply self-(1) (1) days and it is communication. A proper than adjustment. Set 37 CFR 77.409. Status If Responsive to communication(s) filled on	Office Action Summary		10/020,190	SHIKODA ET AL.				
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2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on 18 December 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The proposed drawing correction filed on is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner. If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action. 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121. Attachment(s) 10 Notice of References Cited (PTO-982) 4) Notice of References Cited (PTO-982) 4) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)	A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).							
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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Throughout the claims, phrases such as "head of", "mechanism of", "unit of", etc., should be –head for--, --mechanism for--, --unit for--, etc. Claim 10, "an robot" should be –a robot--.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 4,578,554 to Coulter. The robot described by Coulter comprises a YAG laser (column 4, last paragraph) and comprises holding-turning mechanisms which meet applicant's claimed structure. Note the intended use limitations in applicant's claims pertaining to "the weld line" do not impart patentable weight to the claimed structure.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited art pertains to laser robots.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Samuel M Heinrich whose telephone number is 703 308 1168. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas G Dunn can be reached on 703 308 3318. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 872 9310 for regular communications and 703 872 9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308 0651.

Samuel M Heinrich Primary Examiner Art Unit 1725 Page 3